

Borough of



Chelmsford.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(H. W. NEWTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

INCLUDING THE

Reports of Veterinary Surgeon and
Inspector of Nuisances

FOR

1915.

CHELMSFORD :

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FAIRFIELD,

CHELMSFORD,

March, 1916.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN & COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1915.

I have been given to understand that it is desired that all Reports of this character should this year be as short and concise as possible—merely, in fact, a statement of the actual work done during the year, comment and suggestions to be as short as possible.

Population.

The census population of the Borough in 1911 was 18,000. I estimate the population of the Borough at the end of June, 1915, to be 19,054. For purposes of calculation I have taken it at 19,000.

Births during Year.

Males, 200; female, 216; total, 416. Of these, 14 were illegitimate. Birth-rate, 21·89 per 1,000

Deaths during Year.

Total deaths registered in the Borough, 340; deaths of residents occurring outside the Borough, 11; Alien deaths occurring in the Borough, 75. Of these aliens, 27 were military. Gross death-rate, 18·47 per 1,000; nett death-rate, 14·52 per 1,000. This high death-rate can only be attributed to the enormous amount of illness of all kinds prevalent in the Borough during the early months of the year—*i.e.*, Influenza, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Infantile Mortality.

Infantile Mortality—*i.e.*, deaths of children under one year of age, gives an infantile death-rate of 86·53 per 1,000 births. This, considering the unusually high general death-rate, is, in my opinion, quite satisfactory.

Zymotic Diseases.

Eleven deaths have been registered as due to Zymotic Diseases. Of these deaths, six were due to Measles. I have not here included the one case returned as Enteric Fever. This case was not notified, and upon enquiry I came to the conclusion that the certificate of death was inaccurate. I make these remarks with the knowledge and concurrence of the Doctor who gave the certificate.

Tuberculosis.

Thirteen deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, two deaths from Tubercular Meningitis, and four deaths from other Tubercular Diseases have been registered.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rate, .76 per 1,000. Death-rate for all Tubercular Diseases, 1 per 1,000.

Nineteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have this year been notified. Of these cases, two have since died, and, as far as I am aware, nine have been transferred to sanatoria for treatment.

Of the other forms of Tuberculosis notified, two have since died.

Other Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Reference to Table II. will shew the number and kinds of cases notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

Six hundred and fifty cases in all have been notified. This large number of cases alone will shew the enormous amount of extra work thrown on to your Sanitary Officials this year.

Diphtheria.

The cases of Diphtheria call for no special comment. One death from this disease was registered. 33 out of 36 cases notified were received into the Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

Again, the Scarlet Fever cases call for no comment, 43 out of 47 cases notified were transferred to the Isolation Hospital.

Puerperal Fever.

The three cases of Puerperal Fever notified were transferred to Hospital; two of these cases terminated fatally.

Measles.

Measles has now, by order of the Local Government Board become permanently a Notifiable Disease. During the past year I have received notification of 450 cases among the civilian and three cases among the military population. Six deaths have directly resulted from this outbreak. This gives a measles death-rate of rather below .32 per 1,000. If it is remembered that probably in not more than half the cases of Measles is a doctor called in (and so probably not more than half the cases that occur are notified) I consider the death-rate in this epidemic to be exceedingly low, and without doubt the great majority of these cases have been exceedingly well looked after. The circular issued by the Local Government Board and the memorandum written by their Medical Officer are very definite in character and exceedingly important. I desire to again point out that they require very careful consideration at your hands. So far nothing has been done by your Council to carry out any of the important recommendations made beyond the fact that Measles and German Measles are made permanently notifiable diseases. I venture to suggest this matter has escaped your consideration, and to urge that it should receive careful consideration without delay.

Chicken Pox.

Chicken Pox. 48 notifications received. This disease was made notifiable for the year 1915 only.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

I have officially, as Medical Officer of Health, received 27 notifications of this disease during the year, but of these two cases were sent in ill from outside the Borough and notified to me after admission to Hospital. I believe that during the year a good number of cases, beyond those two referred to, have been received in special Hospital provided for this disease that were never, at any time, notified to me. This I know to be so by the cases found in the death returns. So for the purposes of this Report I shall refer only to those cases notified who actually were resident in the Borough at the time of onset of illness (civil or military). In addition to the 27 cases notified I have included one case that died not notified but certified in the death certificate as Spinal Meningitis. I made personal inquiries regarding the nature of this case. As the result of these enquiries I have without hesitation included this case among those so affected by this disease and one military case not notified at all. Therefore, in all, 28 cases of this disease have

occurred in this Borough during the year (including the 2 military cases referred to above received from outside but notified to me after reception into Hospital), being 12 civilians and 17 military. Of these, 7 civilian and 11 military died—18 deaths in all out of 29 cases. This gives a death-rate of 62·06 of the cases notified to me officially. This epidemic officially commenced on January 24th, when one of the military died suddenly in his billet in the North Ward. This case was subject to *post mortem* examination, and the resulting certificate was given as (1) Influenza (2) Loxamia. I was subsequently informed by the Sanitary Officer to the 1st South Midland Division that as the result of further Pathological investigation the cause of this death was Acute Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. On this day, *i.e.*, January 24th, another man of the same Battalion, but billeted in quite a separate quarter, was taken suddenly ill and died the next day. This case was also the subject of a *post mortem* examination; it was at this examination found that he died also from Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. Two other cases were taken ill on this day—one in the North Ward and one in Springfield. The case in the North Ward I have referred to above. It escaped notification and the patient died on February 6th. The case in Springfield was at first supposed to be Influenza, but at the end of sixteen days it was found to be Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. It was then at once removed to the special Hospital, and subsequently recovered completely. I would here refer to the fact that Influenza of a very severe type was epidemic to a remarkable extent in the Borough. The lack of common care exhibited by the Military Officers in charge of the cases occurring among the troops was so marked that, as Medical Officer of Health, I personally drew the attention of the A.D.M.S. of the 1st South Midland Division to the serious danger to which he was exposing the civilians in the Borough and asked him to see that the military suffering from Influenza and allied conditions should be thoroughly and carefully treated and where necessary isolated. The answer I received was so intolerable that I at once wrote to the Local Government Board informing the Board of the unnecessary danger and suffering to which the civilians in the Borough were being subjected. In reply, Colonel Wilkinson came down to enquire into my letter and more especially to enquire into the cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. By the time Col. Wilkinson arrived six other cases had been notified; three of these were civilians, all of whom resided in the North Ward, two were women over 40 years of age, one died in a few hours, one in five days; the other civilian was a boy of 17, who recovered completely

after a very severe attack. He was ill for two months and was completely unconscious for twelve days. The military cases occurred, one in the North Ward and two in the South Ward. These were the first cases that occurred in the South Ward. Of these three cases two ultimately recovered; they were all treated in the special Hospital. Whilst Col. Wilkinson was here on February 11th another of these fulminating cases occurred again in the North Ward. Three men were billeted together, all slept in the same room, all were apparently well when they went to bed; in the morning one was found to be dead. Cases were notified practically each day until the end of February. Four, all civilians, were notified in March, of whom three died; in one case death was almost certainly caused by Cystitis supervening upon Urethral Stricture. The epidemic was then at an end. One case, a civilian, was notified in May; and this case also terminated fatally.

To discuss this very serious and fatal epidemic I asked the Mayor, Dr. Thresh and the Sanitary Officer of the 1st South Midland Division to meet Col. Wilkinson at my house. Whilst this discussion was going on two officers from the Headquarters of the 3rd Army also came. The whole question of treatment and isolation was thoroughly discussed. An empty house in the Borough was taken, furnished and equipped by the Joint Hospital Board, by whom Nurses were provided; the Medical Staff and Orderlies were provided by one of the Field Ambulances attached to the 1st South Midland Division then quartered here. I here wish to say how well and hard this Medical Staff worked, no effort on their part was wanting to look after the patients sent in to them. Everything that could be done to cure or relieve their patients was done. Their efforts were most thoroughly appreciated by all officials, patients and their relatives, with whom they were brought in contact with. I was very glad to know that when this Field Ambulance left for service abroad that the Town Council unanimously directed the Town Clerk to write the Officer Commanding thanking him most heartily for all the good and willing work done by the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men under him for the civilian sufferers brought under their care.

After this Hospital was fully established I believe all the Military and the greater majority of civilians suffering from this disease were removed to and treated in this Hospital. The houses from which patients were removed were thoroughly disinfected; this also applies to the bedding. Contact cases were as far as possible examined, and in all possible cases the

throats and the nasal cavities of these contacts were treated with silver colloid; beyond this, contact children were kept from attending School for 14 days. The question of keeping adult contacts from work was a difficult one, and the question was referred to the Local Government Board, who advised that the Council had no power to compel contacts from going to work nor the power to compensate anyone who by their orders refrained from working. They (the Local Government Board) advised however that the best course for the Sanitary Authority to adopt was to engage the services of a skilled Bacteriologist to come to examine the throats of all contacts. This course was obviously impossible, for beyond the great expense of such an appointment we were officially advised that the very few Bacteriologists competent to do this work effectively were all practically fully engaged. Therefore this most important work had to be left. It was suggested by some that Vaccini treatment should be offered by the Sanitary Authority free of charge to all contacts and non-contacts. As there was no proof that this treatment was in any way effectual in this disease nothing was done in this direction. Fortunately the epidemic never became very severe and by the middle of March it was practically at an end. It is an interesting fact, as far as this Borough is concerned, how extremely non-infectious and non-contagious this epidemic proved to be. In no instance did two cases occur in the same house, even if the house was in the least degree overcrowded, and as far as I am aware only one contact developed the disease. That one was one of the R.A.M.C. orderlies who was on duty at Oaklands in the very early days of the epidemic. He was nursing one of the Military cases before the case was recognised. He unfortunately developed and died from this disease. This very low rate of infectivity is remarkable and encouraging. But the possibility of "carrier" cases is one of great danger and could only be determined by a thorough, and competently carried out, Bacteriological examination.

The possibility of a recurrence of this disease must be borne in mind. All cases of severe influenza or sore throat should be regarded with suspicion and should at once be vigorously treated and isolated. I trust it may not be necessary again to have to complain of the way in which Military influenza cases are treated, or, perhaps, it would be more accurate to describe it as "neglected."

I will here give the cases of this disease as they were notified to me :—

Case.	Age.	Date.	Address.	Result.
Military...	19	24-1-15	30, South Primrose Hill	Dead (<i>p.m.</i>)
Military...	22	25-1-15	Swiss Avenue ...	Dead (<i>p.m.</i>)
Civilian ...	40	3-2-15	School View ...	Dead
Civilian ...	17	4-2-15	Bundicks Hill ...	Recovered
Civilian ...	3	6-2-15	Nelson Road ...	Dead (?)
Civilian ...	50	7-2-15	Jubilee Terrace ...	Dead
Military...	26	9-2-15	Bundicks Hill ...	Recovered
Military...	21	9-2-15	10, New Writtle Street	Dead
Military...	21	9-2-15	231, Upper Bridge Road	Recovered
Military...	19	11-2-15	Primrose Hill ...	Dead
Civilian ...	15	11-2-15	Hill Road, Springfield...	Recovered
Military...	21	12-2-15	Church Square ...	Recovered
Military ..	22	12-2-15	Oaklands Hospital ...	Dead
Military ..	21	14-2-15	From Maldon ...	Recovered
Military...	22	14-2-15	10, Marconi Road ...	Dead
Military...	21	14-2-15	From Little Waltham, then to Oaklands, then to Civil Hospital, then to Special Hospital	Recovered
Military...	21	16-2-15	52, New Writtle Street	Dead
Military ..	21	16-2-15	9, Marconi Road ...	Dead
Civilian ...	42	20-2-15	Bishops Road ...	Recovered
Military...	19	22-2-15	Glebe Road ...	Recovered
Military...	30	26-2-15	Vicarage Road ...	Dead
Civilian ...	22	27-2-15	37, Bridge Road ...	Recovered
Military...	24	28-2-15	Lower Roman Road ...	Dead
Civilian ...	17	10-3-15	Henry Road ...	Recovered
Civilian ...	30	17-3-15	Embankment Terrace...	Dead
Civilian ...	12	25-3-15	Duke Street ...	Dead
Civilian ...	12	30-3-15	Rochford Road ...	Dead
Civilian ...	48	19-5-15	Broomfield Road ...	Dead

General Conditions: Water Supply, etc.

Your Borough Surveyor has again kindly furnished me with the following information as coming immediately under his department :—

DEAR DR. NEWTON,

I give below the information asked for in connection with your Annual Report.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The total number of loads collected in the North and South Wards and disposed of during the past year is approximately 5,288.

NEW HOUSES.

Twenty-three new dwellings were completed during 1915, of which number three were of the artisan class.

WATER SUPPLY.

A constant supply of water has been maintained throughout the Borough during the past year.

SPRINGS.

Admirals Park.—The supply from this source has been continuous, varying from 82,000 to 86,000 gallons per day.

Burgess Well.—The supply from this source has been continuous, varying from 58,000 to 68,000 gallons per day.

BOREHOLES.

Mildmay Yard.—The pumping from this source has been continuous, averaging 118,000 gallons per day.

Galleywood.—The permanent pumping plant at this Station has been completed and the hours of pumping vary as requirements demand, the average during the last six months being 11 hours pumping and 46,000 gallons per day.

Admirals Park.—A temporary pumping plant has been installed over the New Borehole, pending the erection of permanent pumping machinery, the contract for which is in hand. Pumping has been continuous but varied as circumstances required; the average daily quantity pumped for the whole year being 55,000 gallons.

Supply from Broomfield.—The Rural District Council continue to supply a small quantity on week days, but it is not found practicable to utilise more than 25,000 to 30,000 gallons per day.

The average daily consumption of water for the whole Borough, and for the North and South Wards only, was 444,000 and 373,000 respectively, the highest daily average took place in June, when it was 488,000 and 412,000 respectively.

MILITARY.

The presence of the troops in the town has caused a considerable amount of extra work in connection with scavenging and water supply.

Yours faithfully,

PERCIVAL T. HARRISON,

Borough Engineer.

The various Waters supplied to the Borough have been regularly analysed by Dr. Thresh and the results are very satisfactory. This year at any rate I feel there can be no object in having printed the detailed results of these analyses.

The Public Elementary Schools.

My Report as School Medical Officer is in the hands of your Clerk, and it will be printed and circulated in due course. As in previous years these Schools have been frequently inspected. The building of the proposed new Schools is for the present in abeyance.

The severe epidemic of Measles in the early months of the year made it necessary to close many of the Schools, otherwise apart from that, the School health and attendance has been good.

Places over which the Council have Supervision.

Common Lodging Houses. Slaughter Houses. Bake Houses.

Have all been regularly inspected. All are in good order.

Chelmsford Cattle Market.

The Milk Supply. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Your Veterinary Inspector (Mr. Mulvey) is with H.M. Forces. His Deputy (Mr. Hicks) will, in his absence, report on these matters.

Methods of Dealing with Infectious Diseases.

No alteration.

Isolation Hospital.

During the past year, and as the direct result of the large number of cases of serious Infectious Disease, the War Office have added 22 beds to this Hospital. As I understand, these beds are initially intended for the Military, but may be used when not so required, by civilians. I believe this extension may, if the Joint Hospital Board see fit, be taken over from the War

Office at valuation at the end of the War. I hope the Board will do so. That would give 43 beds available for use. Enteric Fever and Cerebro-Spinal Fever cases could then be provided for. During the epidemic of Cerebro-Spinal Fever an unoccupied house was taken over and fitted up for this disease. Now, however, all these cases are received at the Isolation Hospital.

Military Occupation.

There are still a large number of Military in the Borough in billets. The number fortunately does not appear to be as large as it was at this time last year. I am not able to give the number even approximately. I understand that frequently from time to time the numbers vary considerably. When the 2nd South Midland Division came into the Borough I called to see the Sanitary Officer and asked him to let me know the number of men and the locality in which it was proposed to billet the various Battalions and from time to time to inform me should any fresh drafts of men be sent into the Borough. I might have saved myself even this trouble, for from that day to this I have received no information from him. The general arrangements made by your Council last year for the well being of the Military still hold good.

Rivers and Streams in the Borough.

I have nothing to report this year. Conditions remain in every respect unchanged.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The sewerage system in the Borough remains unaltered. I have heard of no difficulty or trouble in this respect.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.

The conditions remain exactly as reported last year.

Nuisances.

No nuisance of any definite or permanent character has been brought before my notice.

I have had to call your attention to what I believe to be a grave danger; it is certainly a serious nuisance. I find that owing to it being almost impossible to obtain cotton waste, the Controlled Factories in the Borough have been supplying rags to their employees in lieu of cotton waste. These rags are supplied

by the rag merchants in all degrees of filthy uncleanness. No attempt has been made by the vendor to have these rags washed or sterilized. I have been shewn specimens of these rags, and in my opinion I can imagine nothing more likely to spread infection. As far as I can gather there is no Act or Bye-law dealing with this particular question. I have referred the question to the Local Government Board. They now reply that these rags should be washed or sterilized before being used. That is of course quite evident, and the firms using these rags had been so advised. In my opinion the onus of doing this should be placed on the vendors. I suppose nothing will be done to compel this until some serious epidemic of disease results. In the meantime I suppose we must "wait and see."

Food Inspection.

Food inspection is carried out on the same lines as previously reported.

I have written the Local Government Board for copies of the Tables 1—4 usually supplied by them to the Medical Officer of Health to complete his report. I have, however, received no reply, so I conclude this year these tables are not considered essential. I have, however, some left from last year and I have utilized these.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. NEWTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.				
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.		
								Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	17,800	...	338	18.98	202	12.47	34	—	17	50.29	168	9.43
1911	18,008	...	370	20.94	257	14.27	41	12	38	102.7	216	12.00
1912	18,307	...	360	19.67	223	12.13	46	9	25	69.4	177	9.66
1913	18,500	...	397	21.45	237	12.80	31	10	23	57.91	206	11.13
1914	18,800	...	410	21.71	284	15.32	73	11	36	87.8	222	13.7
1915	19,054	...	416	21.84	340	17.89	75	11	36	86.54	276	14.53
Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 3,015.		Total population at all ages, 18,008 Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,974										
		At Census, 1911.										

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.			TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						1. North Ward.	2. South Ward.		3. Springfield.
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65					65 and upwards
Small-pox	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	3
Diphtheria (Military cases) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	33	..	3	26	2	1	..	..	27	3	30
Erysipelas	7	..	8	28	7	1	..	..	3	2	..
Scarlet Fever	44	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	19	6	40
(Military cases)	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	2	3
Enteric Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	11	..	..	3	2	6	..	..	3	..	3
(Military cases)	17	..	..	..	14	3	..	..	2	1	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	16
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	..	..	1	5	12	1	..	4	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	4	1	1	131	2	..	..	..	7	2	9
Measles	450	8	296	..	15	..	..	..	4	..	2
(Military cases)	5	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	218	47	..
Chicken Pox	48	..	32	16	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
Totals	650	14	340	205	56	33	2	..	321	72	114

Isolation Hospitals :—Baddow Road (Chelmsford) and Galleywood ; Kenilworth and Oaklands Military Hospitals.

TABLE IV.

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	4	2	3	1	..	7	5	7	7	36
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles	1	..	1
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria and Croup
Whooping Cough
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	2	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	2	1	5
Laryngitis	2	..	1	1	8
Bronchitis	1	..	..	..	3	2	4	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	..	..	2
Diarrhoea
Enteritis
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis
Congenital Malformations	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Premature Birth	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	4
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
Other Causes	1
TOTALS	4	2	3	1	..	7	5	7	7	36

Nett Births in the year {
 legitimate, 402.
 illegitimate, 14.Nett Deaths in the year of {
 legitimate infants, 36
 illegitimate infants, 36

LOCAL ACTS, ADOPTIVE ACTS, & BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

Local Acts.

1915. 15th July.—Chelmsford Corporation Gas Act, 1915.
(Borough of Chelmsford and adjoining
Parishes).

Adoptive Acts.

1900. 28th Feb.—Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1846-1899.
1890. 31st Dec.—Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
1890. 31st Dec.—Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.
Parts II., III. and V.
1893. 22nd Feb.—Private Street Works Act, 1892.
1903. 7th June.—Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.
Part II., Part III., Sections 52, 53, 54, 55,
56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67
in Part IV., Part V., Part VI., and Sections
93 and 95 in Part X.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

*Made by the Local Board of Health previous to the Incorporation
of the Borough.*

1852. 27th Feb.—Bye-laws with respect to Common Lodging
Houses.
1859. 22nd Jan.—Bye-laws for the regulation of Slaughter-
houses.
1880. 6th Feb.—Bye-laws with respect to the Market.
1886. 29th Sept.—Bye-laws with respect to the management
of the Cemetery.
1886. 24th Nov.—Regulations for management of, and charges
for the use of, the Cemetery.

Made by the Town Council.

1891. 30th Sept.—Bye-laws: Fines on Resignation.
1894. 28th Feb.—Bye-laws: New Streets and Buildings.
1895. 7th May.—Bye-laws: Recreation Ground.
1899. 29th Mar.—Bye-laws: Good Rule and Government.
1899. 30th Aug.—Regulations: Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk
Shops.
1900. 29th Aug.—Bye-laws: New Buildings..
1905. 27th Dec.—Rules and Regulations: Public Library and
Museum.
1908. 28th Oct.—Rules for the Regulation of the Fire Brigade.

1909. 30th June.—Bye-laws: Good Rule and Government
(Writing on foot pavements).
1909. 29th Dec.—Water Supply Regulations.
1910. 26th Jan.—Bye-laws: Cleaning of footways, privies, &c.,
and the removal of house refuse, &c.
1910. 23rd Feb.—Bye-laws: Market (emaciated cattle).
1910. 30th Mar.—Bye-laws: Hackney Carriages.
1910. 31st Aug.—Bye-laws: Good Rule and Government
(noisy hawking).
1910. 30th Nov.—Standing Orders of the Council.
1911. 25th Oct.—Rules with respect to Allotments.
1912. 31st Jan.—Standing Orders of the Council.
1912. 29th May.—Bye-laws: New Buildings (Constructed with
Steel or Iron Framework).
1913. 26th Mar.—Bye-laws: New Buildings.
1913. 30th April.—Bye-laws: Means of escape in case of fire
from certain Factories and Workshops.
1914. 25th Feb.—Regulations: Connections to Sewers.
1914. 29th July.—Bye-laws: Public Library.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
16, LONDON ROAD,
CHELMSFORD,
February, 1916.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the following Report on the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Borough during the year ended December 31st, 1915, being my Fourth Annual Report.

Abatement of Nuisances, &c.

A reference to the table of Sanitary work carried out indicates that in nearly every particular the number of matters dealt with shews a decline due to the difficulties of the times and the consideration of the financial aspect from the property owner's point of view.

Sanitary Work carried out during the year.

The following is a summary of Sanitary work carried out during the year as a result of notices served or recommendations made :—

Drains, Water Closets, Urinals, &c.

Dilapidated, wooden or other water closets rebuilt	...	11
Flushing apparatus and supply of water provided to water closets previously flushed by hand	... ..	11
Water closets provided with proper waste-preventing cisterns in place of large tanks with spindle valves	...	19
Flushing apparatus and fittings of w.c.s repaired or new flushing cisterns provided	... ..	70
Pedestal basins provided to w.c.s previously fitted with defective and filthy, long, hopper basins	... ..	172
Defective water closets repaired	... ..	115
Water closet soil pipes removed from interior of houses or properly ventilated	... ..	17
Defective privy converted to pail closet	... ..	1
Drains properly intercepted or ventilated	... ..	45

New branch drains laid	...	...	152
„ drainage provided	...	...	9
Glazed gully traps fixed	...	...	159
Drains repaired	...	...	67
Sinks and lavatory wastes properly disconnected, &c.	...	...	46
Inspection chambers provided to drains	...	...	15
Obstructed drains, water closets, &c., unstopped	...	...	50
Waste pipes renewed	...	...	10

Refuse Receptacles.

Foul ashpits abolished...	...	...	43
Galvanized iron sanitary dustbins provided in place of foul ashpits or where previous bins were dilapidated	...	...	219

Dwelling Houses.

Houses or parts thereof cleansed Sec. 46 P.H.A., 1875	...	...	34
Damp conditions prevented, damp courses inserted, walls rendered with impervious material, soil removed from walls, &c.	...	...	53
Overcrowding abated	...	...	5
Floors relaid	...	...	67
„ and stairs repaired	...	...	122
Ceilings repaired	...	...	26
Walls, chimneys, plastering, doors and windows repaired	...	...	161
Troughing provided, repaired or cleared from obstruction...	...	...	86
Sanitary sinks and water supplies provided in houses	...	...	175
„ „ provided in place of defective ones	...	...	69
Roofs repaired	...	...	56
Obstructed light improved	...	...	8
Downpipes repaired or properly disconnected	...	...	140
New sculleries provided to houses...	...	...	2
Efficient ventilation provided to houses, windows made to open, &c.	...	...	280
Yard paving laid or re-laid	...	...	373
Houses closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	23

Workshops (including Bakehouses).

Workshops or parts thereof cleansed	...	...	4
Drains improved	...	...	9
Flushing apparatus provided to w.c.s	...	...	3
Insufficient or defective water closets	...	...	10
Want of proper paving...	...	...	7
Pedestal basins substituted for long hopper basins	...	...	7
Urinals improved	...	...	2

Accumulations of refuse removed ...	3
Sanitary bins provided for ashes, &c. ...	13
Guttering, roofs, &c., repaired ...	10
Miscellaneous ...	9

Water Supply.

Samples of water submitted for analysis ...	0
„ „ condemned as unfit for drinking ...	1
Borough water laid on to premises previously supplied from shallow wells ...	2
Supplies for drinking water provided direct from mains instead of from storage tanks... ..	251
Drinking water storage tanks provided with covers and cleansed or repaired ...	9
Premises provided with a sufficient supply of drinking water where previous supply was insufficient ...	22
Wells improved ...	1

Miscellaneous.

Dairies, cowsheds or milkshops cleaned or repaired ...	4
Nuisances from keeping animals abated ...	10
Manure pits filled up to ground level, covered or improved	7
Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed ...	77
Premises, &c., cleansed ...	27
Smoke nuisances abated ...	2
Slaughterhouses cleansed or repaired, offal removed, &c. ...	6
Other matters ...	33

Drains, Water Closets, etc.

Fifty drains have been unstopped and 159 glazed gullies fixed for traps of obsolete or inefficient pattern.

Eleven closets previously hand-flushed have been provided with flushing apparatus and a supply of water for flushing, against 58 in 1914, 254 in 1913, and 166 in 1912.

Further improvement of the sanitary condition of water closets has also been made by the provision of proper flushing apparatus in place of large tanks with spindle valves in 19 instances as compared with 46 last year; and by the provision of 172 pedestal basins in place of filthy and defective long hopper basins as against 231 last year.

Eleven dilapidated wooden or other water closets have been re-built. In two instances Borough water had to be laid on to

the premises as the previous supply was from shallow wells, and in one instance connection to the Council's sewer was necessary, as the existing drainage discharged into a ditch.

Refuse Receptacles.

Forty-three foul ashpits have been abolished and 219 galvanized iron sanitary dustbins provided in place of them or where the previous ones were dilapidated, and an important improvement is noticeable on the premises.

Dwelling Houses.

I have as in previous years included work done under this heading in the general summary, but as required I also insert the table specified by the Local Government Board of the dwelling houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, the table is as follows :—

Number of dwelling houses inspected	...	...	112
„ „ considered to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			17
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...		Nil
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	Nil
„ houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	17
Number of houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for human habitation		...	Nil

This table shows that no Closing Order was made during the year under the Act, but one house was closed under the Public Health Act, the owner consenting to do this on representation being made to him as to its damp and dilapidated condition.

Overcrowding.

Five cases of overcrowding were dealt with, but it is obvious that with so many soldiers billeted in the Borough these could not be the only cases of overcrowding occurring.

Sanitary Sinks and separate Supplies of Water provided in Dwelling Houses.

175 sanitary sinks have been provided in houses where no sink was previously provided. This number is about half that of the previous year, but having regard to the special difficulties of

the times must I think be regarded as satisfactory. In addition to these 175 sanitary sinks, 69 others have been substituted for existing stone and brick sinks which had become so dilapidated and filthy as to constitute nuisances, and in many cases the waste pipes also required properly disconnecting. It is satisfactory to have to report that probably not more than 200 houses now remain which are not furnished with a sink and indoor water supply.

Paving of Yards, Passages, &c.

373 yards or passages have either been paved or the existing paving has been renewed or repaired as against 535 yards so paved last year.

So many of these yard surfaces have received attention during the last few years that the improvement to properties is very marked, and the advantage from a property owner's point of view as well as from that of the occupier is unquestionable.

Common Lodging Houses.

No complaint has arisen during the year and they are generally well conducted.

A good deal of improvement has been made to the "Kettle" Lodging House.

Slaughterhouses.

These are generally well kept and any suggestions readily accepted; much attention has been given to them at times of slaughtering.

Bakehouses.

There is still one underground bakehouse in the Borough. The conditions throughout the year have been generally satisfactory.

Market.

I visit the Borough Cattle Market on Market days with the Borough Veterinary Inspector.

During the year 8 cows were sent out of the Market, being emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.

Five store pigs were also sent out of the Market.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

One Purveyor of Milk has given up business and one transfer has occurred, otherwise the numbers are the same as last year.

The Regulations have been generally well observed.

Food Inspection.

Premises where food is prepared or sold have been periodically inspected. The carcasses of 2 cows were condemned, one being tuberculous and the other on account of inflammatory conditions.

Offensive Trades.

There are only two of these in the Borough and no complaint has been received during the year.

Elementary Schools.

These are reported upon each month to the Education Committee.

Disinfection, &c.

The number of patients removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital is as follows :—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	42
Diphtheria ...	...	...	32

Cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were removed to the Special Hospital, "Kenilworth," on the Oaklands Estate.

The number of houses, &c., disinfected was as follows :—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	44
Diphtheria ...	...	...	34
Consumption ...	...	..	13
Cancer ...	..	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	23
Measles ...	...	...	6
Other ...	...	...	25

The bedding and clothing (where necessary) were removed to the Joint Hospital Board's disinfecting station for disinfection.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER BROWN,

Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1915 FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD,

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORK PLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries.)	23	—	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries.)	155	9	—
WORK PLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	—	—	—
Total	178	9	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORK PLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	53	—	—	—
Sanitary accomoda- tion. { Insufficient	—	—	—	—
{ Unsuitable or defective	20	—	—	—
{ Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to out- work which are included in Part 3 of this Report.)				
Total	77	4	—	—

3.—HOME WORK.

[illegible]

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.					Number.
(1)					(2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake- houses, may be enu- merated here.	{ Bakehouses	...	...	...	20
	{ Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	...	24
	{ Builders, &c.	...	...	...	13
	{ Rag Sorters	...	...	...	3
	{ Plumbers, &c.	...	...	...	14
	{ Cycles, &c.	...	...	...	8
	{ Miscellaneous	...	...	...	26
Total number of Workshops on Register					108

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.					Number
(1)					(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—					
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 133)					Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5, 1901)					Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector					Nil
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...					Nil
Others					Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—					
Certificates granted during the year					Nil
In use at the end of the year					1

SUMMARY OF WORK done through the Sanitary Inspector
in the Borough of Chelmsford during the year ending
December 31st, 1915.

	Total Number for year.	Notes, Results of Inspection, &c.
1. Complaints received...	77	
2. Nuisances detected without complaint	2561	
3. Nuisances abated ...	2738	
4. Nuisances remaining unabated ...	99	
5. Formal notices served ...	11	
6. Summonses taken out ...	Nil	
7. Convictions obtained ...	Nil	
8. Lodging-houses inspected. Frequency of inspection ...	2 33	
9. Slaughter-houses inspected. Frequency of inspection ...	9 137	
10. Bakehouses inspected. Frequency of inspection ...	21 207	
11. Dairies and Milkshops inspected. Frequency of inspection ...	29 152	
12. Cowsheds inspected. Frequency of inspection ...	8 96	
13. No. of samples of milk taken for exam- ination for cleanliness, tubercle bacilli, etc. ...	Nil	Taken by Veterinary Inspector.
14. Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 ...	34	
15. Houses disinfected ...	148	
16. Overcrowding abated ...	5	
17. Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied	Nil	
18. "Certificates" granted ...	Nil	
19. " " deferred ...	Nil	
20. Public Wells, total No. in District ...	Nil	
21. New Public Wells sunk or improved supplies of Water afforded ...	Nil	
22. Wells cleansed or repaired ...	1	
23. Wells closed ...	2	
24. Privies, No. in District ...		Only 5 known.
25. " " No. abolished during the year	1	
26. Pail Closets, No. in District ...	40	
27. Water closets, No. in District with- out flushing cistern ...	12	
28. Water closets with flushing cisterns ...	5000	Approximately.
29. Privies and W.C.s repaired; W.C.s supplied with water ...	412	
30. Water cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered ...	11 9	
31. Animals improperly kept removed ...	10	
32. Samples of water taken for analysis ...	Nil	
33. Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ...	Nil	
34. Seizures of unsound meat, &c. ...	2	

WALTER BROWN,

Inspector of Nuisances.

REPORT OF THE ACTING VETERINARY SURGEON.

CHELMSFORD,

May, 1916.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr. W. S. Mulvey, F.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Surgeon to the Town Council, is still engaged on Military Service, and in his absence from the Borough I have pleasure in reporting upon the duties performed by me as his Assistant and Acting Veterinary Surgeon.

The duties of the Veterinary Surgeon were clearly laid down by the Council when Mr. Mulvey was appointed to this office in 1912, and it affords me much pleasure in again reporting that during the year ended 31st December last nothing of an important nature has arisen in connection with the carrying out of these duties and that the Town Council have not been compelled to take legal proceedings against any person or persons in connection with the Market or the supply of food and drugs in the Borough. As you are aware, the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Inspectors appointed for this purpose by the County Council.

Cows and Cowsheds.

All cows and cowsheds are inspected and examined once in each two months and samples of milk have been taken from cows and examined whenever considered advisable.

The number of cowsheds in the Borough is...	9
The number of cows in the Borough is approximately	300
The number of cows excluded from cowsheds in the Borough during the year was ...	0
The number of samples of milk tested during the year was	145
The number of cows tested with the tuberculin test during the year was	2
The number of visits paid to cowsheds during the year was	48

No new cowsheds have been opened and no existing cowsheds have been closed during the year, and it will be observed that the number of cows in the Borough is practically the same as the year ending 31st December, 1914.

Market.

The Corporation Market has been regularly attended on each Market and Fair day and all animals deposited or exposed for sale have been inspected and examined.

The following is a list of all animals removed from the Market during last year :—

- Jan. 8th. White cow, emaciated and having enlarged glands.
- „ 15th. Roan cow, very emaciated.
- Mar. 12th. Five store pigs.
- Apl. 9th. Red cow, emaciated.
- Sept. 3rd. Two cows (1 Dutch, 1 red roan) emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.
- „ 10th. Red and white cow, emaciated and having enlarged glands.
- Oct. 15th. Red cow, emaciated, having enlarged glands and suspected to be tuberculous.
- Dec. 17th. Red and white cow, emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.

This list has been submitted to the Market Committee of the Town Council and considered.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 3rd March, 1915, made an Order called the Essex (Swine Fever) Order of 1915 which came into operation on the 15th day of March, 1915, applying the Swine Fever (Regulation of Movement) Order of 1908, with certain modifications to the County of Essex, excluding certain Parishes and regulating the movement of swine from markets. The Order also prohibited the holding of sales of swine in any Markets in the area unless duly authorised by the Local Authority of the district under the Order. The Town Clerk therefore obtained a Licence from the Chelmsford Sub-Committee appointed under the Diseases of Animals Acts authorising the holding of a Market for the sale of swine in the Borough Market, on each Friday from 19th March, 1915, until 17th September, 1915, and it was renewed from the 24th September, 1915, until 23rd September, 1916. I am glad to report that there have been no serious outbreaks of

Swine Fever in the Borough and I think this is in a measure due to the precautions taken to prevent any infection.

The Board of Agriculture also issued the Maintenance of Live Stock Order of 1915, which came into operation on the 23rd August, 1915, and superseded the Slaughter of Animals Order of 1915. This Order was issued for the purpose of restricting the slaughter of animals in calf or in pig and also the slaughter of calves, and the Town Council are expressly authorised to execute and enforce the provisions thereof within the Borough. The Order and the memorandum thereon received from the Board of Agriculture have been duly considered by the Market Committee and I do not think it is necessary for me to fully explain the provisions of the Order and the operation thereof in this Report. So far as I can ascertain the provisions of the Order have been duly carried out in the Borough.

Notwithstanding the gradual increase in the average prices of cattle and other animals the number of animals sent to the Corporation Market during the year was well maintained and the quality of the animals sent into the Market for sale was above the average, as evidenced by the small number of animals turned out of the Market during the year.

Slaughterhouses.

The Inspector of Nuisances and myself have regularly inspected the slaughterhouses in the Borough and the occupiers thereof have kept the same in a generally satisfactory condition. As the Council are already aware, the slaughterhouse belonging to Mrs. Shedd, situate in Viaduct Road, has been licenced subject to the conditions that the slaughtering or dressing of animals therein shall only take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. and that previous notice is required to be given to the Inspector of Nuisances of the slaughtering or dressing of animals in this slaughterhouse.

In his annual report for the year 1913 Mr. Mulvey suggested that the Council should consider the advisability of erecting a public abattoir, but I presume that owing to the War and the need for economy this question has not yet been considered.

Horses.

In my report for last year I stated that the total number of horses belonging to the Corporation on 31st December, 1914, was 11. During the last year two new horses were purchased and one horse was destroyed on my advice owing to being badly burnt as a result of an accident at the refuse tip.

In view of the increased cost of fodder the Borough Engineer and myself went into the question of the feeding of the horses and made certain alterations in this respect in order to reduce, as far as possible, the large increase in the cost of fodder without affecting the general condition of the horses. Apart from minor ailments the condition of the horses during the year has been generally satisfactory.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HICKS, M.R.C.V.S.

Acting Veterinary Surgeon.

